



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
ALPHA BATTERY, 1ST BATTALION, 19TH FIELD ARTILLERY
5960 ROTHWELL STREET
FORT SILL, OK, 73503

ATSF-KF-A

6 February 2018

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Welcome Letter for class #21-18

Dear Parents, Family Members, and Friends,

I am Captain Raymond G. Fletcher, your Soldier's Battery Commander during their Initial Entry Training in the United States Army. Your Soldier arrived safely here at Fort Sill, Oklahoma and began basic combat training in Alpha Battery, 1st Battalion 19th Field Artillery Regiment (A/1-19 FA).

During the nine-week training period, your Soldier will learn the basic skills that are required to survive and win on today's modern battlefield. The training is very strenuous and demanding, but the tasks performed helps each Soldier develop the discipline and self-confidence necessary to be a successful Soldier in today's Army.

I want you to know that the cadre training your Soldier is a very dedicated group of professionals who are genuinely concerned about the health, welfare and training of each Soldier. We consider your Soldier to be the Army's most important asset and I will personally ensure that we make your Soldier's basic training experience both challenging and rewarding.

YOUR SOLDIER WILL CALL HOME SOON!

You may have received a phone call from your Soldier by now. Within the first 72 hours of physically arriving to Fort Sill, your Soldier is given the opportunity to make a short phone call. I will ensure that your Soldier makes another short phone call, to the person of their choosing, within 48 hours of reporting to Alpha Battery. During the cycle, your Soldier has the opportunity to earn phone privileges during each phase change (about every three weeks). Please know that, this privilege is denied for misconduct or poor performance. During the duration of Basic Combat Training your Soldier is without their personal cell phones.

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK

Family and friends are a big part of the Army community and although your loved one cannot call each night to keep you informed of their progress and achievements, my cadre and I will bridge that gap with frequent updates to the Battery's Facebook page and Twitter feed. If you simply type in "A/1-19 FA BDE" into an internet search engine you will find us. The link to the Facebook page is

<https://www.facebook.com/AlphaBatteryFA/>. Please ensure you are mindful and

respectful of any posting to the Face Book page. Inappropriate postings or messages will result in individuals being banned and blocked from the page.

YOUR SOLDIER WANTS TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Whether or not this is your Soldier's first time away from home, I am certain that they miss you a great deal. I strongly encourage you to write at every opportunity, and you can be assured that your Soldier has ample time to write you as well. When writing your Soldier, use the following address:

Rank Last Name, First Name MI.
A/1-19 FA, Platoon # (*Example: 4th PLT*), Class 21-18
5960 ROTHWELL STREET
FORT SILL, OK 73503-5001.

* Abbreviations for US Army ranks are PVT for Private (E-1), PV2 for Private (E-2), PFC for Private First Class (E-3), and SPC for Specialist (E-4). If you do not yet know your loved ones Platoon (PLT#), and or rank, we make an effort to still get them your mail.

Packages are not necessary, please do not send them! My cadre and I will not store items for your Soldier or keep any items for personal use. All items that a Soldier receives and is not authorized to have will be immediately destroyed or discarded in front of the Soldier to ensure transparency of this policy.

Soldiers have access to the local Post Exchange (store) that sells them all of the additional **authorized** items they are allowed to have while training in the battery. The following are a list of items that your Soldiers are not allowed to have while in training with the Battery (this list is not all inclusive):

- ✓ **No alcohol or products containing alcohol (to include mouthwash), tobacco, or narcotics (prescription or over the counter)**
- ✓ **No weapons, weapons parts, weapons cleaning kits, or solvents**
- ✓ **No clothing items**
- ✓ **No radios, TVs, cell phones, cameras, or other electronic devices**
- ✓ **No materials that violate Army Values i.e. pornographic or morally-questionable items**
- ✓ **No magazines of any type**
- ✓ **No food items or consumable products**

WHAT CAN I DO TO ASSIST MY SOLDIER DURING TRAINING?

The best thing you can do is to write positive letters. Soldiers look forward to daily mail call. Your Soldier is incredibly busy, so even if you do not receive a reply within the first couple of weeks, continue to send positive letters to motivate them until they can reply.

HOW ARE THEY TREATING MY SOLDIER?

I promise your Soldier is not reliving those first 30 minutes of the movie, "Full Metal Jacket." Today's Soldiers are treated fairly, firmly, and with dignity and respect. Abuse

of any kind is not tolerated. Drill Sergeants are selected from among the best Non-commissioned Officers in the Army, and are highly qualified to train recruits.

MAY MY SOLDIER ATTEND RELIGIOUS SERVICES?

Yes. Soldiers have the opportunity to attend weekly religious services of various denominations. They attend a religious service and religious education classes as available through the Chaplain's office. Soldiers are also permitted to seek counseling from an Army Chaplain who is on call 24 hours a day.

WHAT HAPPENS IF MY SOLDIER FAILS A PORTION OF BASIC TRAINING?

If your Soldier misses or fails a task required for graduation, they are given another opportunity to make up the training. If a Soldier still fails to meet the requirement that Soldier will not graduate.

IN CASE OF EMERGENCIES

Should an emergency arise, the only means of notifying your Soldier is through your local American Red Cross. Do not call the battery directly, we cannot take any action unless it is received through an official Red Cross message. The field office in your area contacts the Lawton, Oklahoma field office, who contacts the battery. In extreme cases, such as serious injury or death affecting immediate family members, an emergency leave of absence may be granted if it is determined to be in the best interest of the Soldier. Other leaves of absence during training are not authorized. You can contact the Red Cross Emergency Call Center at (877)272-7887, 24 hours a day.

WHAT HAPPENS IF MY SOLDIER IS INJURED DURING TRAINING?

Should any injury occur, your Soldier receives appropriate medical attention from Fort Sill's professional medical staff. Additionally, Drill Sergeants are Combat Lifesaver qualified and carry medical aid kits.

FAMILY DAY AND GRADUATION INFORMATION

Provided your Soldier meets all basic training requirements, your Soldier's Family day will be at 9:00 A.M on Thursday, 12 April 2018 on the Alpha Battery Drill Pad, A-Wing, Building 5960 Rothwell St., Fort Sill, OK 73503. The graduation ceremony begins at 10:00 on Friday, 13 April 2018, at Cache Creek Chapel on Ft. Sill, OK. If the location is changed, you will be notified in a timely manner. After graduation, your Soldier reports to their next duty station for Advanced Individual Training. Between week 5 or 6, the graduation letter will be mailed out to families with additional information concerning your Soldier's family day and graduation. The information will already be made available through the battery Facebook page and is also accessible through <http://sill-www.army.mil/434/1-19/alpha/>. Please know that there are some Soldiers who will not graduate due to various reasons. Have a candid conversation with your Soldier prior to making your reservations for lodging in advance and travel insurance is highly encouraged. Livestreaming is available for the graduation ceremony for those who are unable or incapable to travel to the installation for the event. The livestream can be accessed through the www.FiresCenterLiveEvents.com.

ATSF-KF-A

SUBJECT: Welcome Letter for class #21-18

HOW DO I GET ON FORT SILL?

Due to security measures, access to Fort Sill is limited to Department of Defense card holders (The V.A.-issued identification card no longer meets the criteria for installation access) and those individuals who have received a post pass from the Fort Sill Visitor Control Center (VCC). Go to <http://sill-www.army.mil/vcc/> or call 580-442-9604 for instructions on access to Fort Sill, or go to the Visitor Control Center yourself prior to, to attain a post pass. Failing to do so causes entry to Fort Sill to get delayed and/or denied. Digital copies of the Welcome letter, Graduation letter, and VCC Visitor Request Form can additionally be found online at <http://sill-www.army.mil/434/1-19/alpha/>. Do not send any documentation for the visitor pass to the battery. We are not authorized to handle your personal information and have no control over the processing of the visitor passes. This must be done directly with the Visitor Control Center.

Due to the impacts of the Real ID Act, some state ID card holders will require a second form of identification to access the installation. Further information regarding your specific state ID and valid forms of a secondary ID can be located at <https://www.dhs.gov/real-id>.

On behalf of the Assassin Battery Team, we look forward to the weeks ahead and can't wait to get started. Assassins!

Sincerely,

RAYMOND G. FLETCHER
CPT, FA
Commanding